

TRUTH OR HYPOCRISY

Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding (Proverbs 23:23).

Sometimes (usually when watching some political news program), I wonder if people really care about truth at all. The usual format these shows follow is to have one or more individuals from one side of a politically charged topic and pit them against one or more individuals from the other side of the topic, which, more often than not, ends up in a heated shouting match where no one's mind is changed and the audience ends up with a headache.

People in positions of power and influence seemingly will say whatever they need to say (truth or not) in order to maintain their power and influence or even expand it. One does not need to be in politics or leadership to be afflicted by this attitude. Even "regular" people tend to have personal biases and will say things to reinforce their own opinions and positions.

This is not a new phenomenon. Psalm 12 begins with a bleak picture of society where it appears that almost everyone is willing to lie for personal gain. In verses 1-4, the psalmist wonders if there are any godly people left. It seems that the majority are what we would call "two-faced" and their arrogance knows no limit, even in regards to the LORD himself.

It can be easy to become discouraged in such an environment. If we are not careful, cynicism and doubt can creep in and make things feel hopeless. So, in verses 5-8, the writer reminds his readers that the LORD cares for the truth. God is not hypocritical. His words are pure like precious metal that has been refined in a furnace. The LORD also cares for those who have been taken advantage of by the lying words of others.

Just like many of the psalms express ideas of anxiety, fear, anger, and aggravation, Psalm 12 expresses a heart that is near despair with what's going on around it. Likewise, as many other psalms do, this one ends with the unchangeable truth that God will ultimately deliver the righteous and judge the wicked. That's a promise we all can gain confidence from and learn to fully trust in God and his word.

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